

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, PL

SUBJECT: CSU PAPERS OVER DIFFERENCES RESULTING FROM BAVARIA'S
VOTE FOR POLISH PENSION AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY: AS REPORTED IN SATURDAY NEWSPAPERS IN FRG, BAVARIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT GOPPEL'S DECISION TO VOTE FOR POLISH PENSION AGREEMENT IN BUNDESRAT UPSET CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS GREATLY. ALTHOUGH STRAUSS FAVORED POSTPONEMENT OF BUNDESRAT DECISION PENDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF POLAND'S WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT ALL ETHNIC GERMANS DESIRING TO EMIGRATE TO FRG TO DO SO, STRAUSS HAS TAKEN PAINS TO PAPER OVER HIS DIFFERENCES WITH GOPPEL AND AVERT SPLIT IN CSU. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGEN HAS LEARNED FROM RELIABLE CSU SOURCES THAT DECISION TO CAST BAVARIA'S VOTES IN BUNDESRAT FOR POLISH AGREEMENT MARCH 12 WAS TAKEN BY MINISTER PRESIDENT GOPPEL PERSONALLY. IN MAKING THIS DECISION, GOPPEL WAS AWARE THAT CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS AND CSU LANDESVORSTAND FAVORED POST-
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PONEMENT OF BUNDESTAG VOTE PENDING FUTHER CLARIFICATION

OF LAST-MINUTE MODIFICATION OF POLISH POSITION ON EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS.

3. IN COURSE OF LENGTHY SPEECH TO CSU CONVENTION MARCH 13, STRAUSS CONFIRMED MEDIA REPORTS THAT HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED POSTPONEMENT OF VOTE, BUT, BY ADOPTING CONCILIATORY STANCE TOWARD GOPPEL, ATTEMPTED TO REUNITE BADLY DIVIDED RANKS OF CSU. BY ATTRIBUTING HIS DIFFERENCES WITH GOPPEL TO LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND DIFFERENCE OVER PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN IMPLEMENTING THEIR "IDENTICAL" VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE OF POLISH AGREEMENTS, STRAUSS SOUGHT TO MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF FACTIONAL SPLIT OVER WHAT IS CLEARLY A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE.

4. DEMONSTRATIVE APPLAUSE GIVEN TO GOPPEL BY SUPPORTERS OF AGREEMENT ON HIS ARRIVAL AT CSU CONVENTION MARCH 13, ON ONE HAND, AND OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF HIS DECISION BY SEVERAL DELEGATES ON PREVIOUS AFTERNOON, ON OTHER, ILLUSTRATED DEPTH OF FEELING AND DIVISION OF OPINION ON THIS ISSUE. FACT THAT STRAUSS' GESTURE OF SHAKING HANDS WITH GOPPEL IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUDING HIS SPEECH TRIGGERED LARGEST BURST OF APPLAUSE OF THE CONVENTION SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT DELEGATES WERE RELIEVED AND PLEASED THAT STRAUSS HAD MOVED TO AVERT SPLIT.

5. COMMENT: CONGEN BELIEVES THAT "YES" VOTE MAY ON BALANCE, AID CSU CAUSE IN BUNDESTAG ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN HERE. CSU CAN CLAIM THAT UNION PARTIES FORCED THE MODIFICATIONS IN POLISH PUBLIC POSITION WHICH MADE THE AGREEMENTS ACCEPTABLE TO FRG. ON OTHER HAND, SHOULD POLAND FAIL IN FRG EYES TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENTS COMPLETELY, STRAUSS CAN POINT TO FACT THAT HE ARGUED TO VERY END THAT POLISH ASSURANCES CONCERNING EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MORE LEGALLY BINDING FORM. ALTHOUGH SOME SPD OFFICIALS HERE ARE SUGGESTING THAT "APPARENT" STRAUSS-GOPPEL DIFFERENCES WERE MERELY TRICK TO WIN VOTES FROM BOTH SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF AGREEMENTS, CONGEN IS CONVINCED STRAUSS-GOPPEL DISAGREEMENT WAS GENUINE. PETERSON

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